

ART CLASS

The eye-catching artwork at the centre of this scheme pulls the elegant colour palette together beautifully

WORDS JANE CRITTENDEN | PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS SNOOK

PROJECT DETAILS

DESIGNER
Alex Meachen of
Alex Interior Design
(alexinteriors.co.uk)

PROPERTY
Victorian terrace

WORK
Design of double
reception room

LOCATION
London

After being drawn to a Victorian house because of its high ceilings and natural light, Alex Meachen's client, a busy lawyer, asked for design help to modernise her double reception room without losing its period charm.

1 STARTING POINT

The client wanted a home office and a relaxed sitting room and for each to feel distinctly different, yet look cohesive. 'The sitting room was an uninspiring magnolia canvas with hard, linear surfaces,' says Alex. 'The space was crying out for warmth, softness and comfort that she could sink into at the end of a busy day.'

2 FUNCTIONAL LIVING

Although double doors separated the two parts of the room, the awkward door swing prevented space for storage in the sitting area. Alex repurposed them into bifolds and designed joinery for the alcoves. He sourced an ottoman with integrated storage on brass castors, enabling the layout to be adapted for different occasions. 'The piece works for formal entertaining and for putting your feet up at the end of the day,' he says. 'Curved chairs are comfortable and cocooning but not bulky so don't crowd the room.'

3 CREATIVE SPRINGBOARD

The client asked Alex to include a treasured piece of art depicting a skier. The muted blue tones prompted a similarly muted green-grey palette, which blends into the adjoining office in a lighter shade to tie the spaces together. 'The diamond pattern of the harlequin-inspired ski suit inspired the recurring subtle motif in the scheme,' adds Alex, 'including bronze cabinetry handles with a diamond-shaped backplate.'

4 PATTERN & COLOUR

Leaning into a pale blue coral pattern on the ottoman nods to the art as do the deeper indigo cushions, where the graphic print contrasts with the burgundy chairs. 'The warmth in the red chair fabric offsets the tonal blues in the art but isn't overpowering,' says Alex. 'My client is really pleased with the outcome, she says sitting in here feels like living in a magazine!'

THOUGHTFUL DETAILS

'Asymmetrical shelves create contemporary interest and I added a brass rail at the top for a finishing touch,' says Alex. 'The half-lampshade is designed for shallow recesses.' **Alpinist artwork** by Peter Doig. **Joinery design**, Alex Interior Design. **Diamond backplates**, MG&Co. **Bouclé chairs** in Merlot, Six The Residence. **Winnie ottoman** upholstered in Tobias & The Angel's Coral Squid Ink, Love Your Home. **Half-lampshade**, Pooky. **Lorenzo chandelier**, Soho Home. **Cushions**, made by Katherine Brown in Christopher Farr Cloth's Lost and Found fabric. **Talasa wave-edge tray**, Oka